

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /070 W  
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R 081136Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6219  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 2382

PACOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PK, AF  
SUBJECT: VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAOUD - 5-8 MARCH  
1978

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 1994, B) ISLAMABAD 1516, C) KABUL 1282,  
D) KABUL 0820

1. SUMMARY - AFGHAN PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD FLEW HOME TO KABUL 8 MARCH AFTER A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FOUR-DAY VISIT TO PAKISTAN. DAOUD'S VISIT PROMPTED SOME INSPIRED GOP HOOPLA AND SIGNALLED THE CONTINUING WARMING TREND IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAOUD, WHO ARRIVED FROM NEW DELHI 5 MARCH, MET ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WITH CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA. THE TWO LEADERS CONFERRED ALONE FOR 100 MINUTES, AND ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS OF THE TALKS WERE GIVEN, THE PRESS SPECULATES THAT THE DISCUSSION COVERED THOSE BILATERAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE CMLA'S VISIT TO KABUL IN NOVEMBER, 1977. THE PRESS

NOTED THAT THE "ATMOSPHERE" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS NOW "MUCH IMPROVED."

3. THE TWO LEADERS MET AGAIN FOR 90 MINUTES ON 6 MARCH. "INFORMED SOURCES" SUBSEQUENTLY ENSURED THAT THE PRESS WOULD CARRY REPORTS THAT ZIA AND DAOUD AGREED THAT "HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS" SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS SO THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS COULD COME "UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW."

4. AFTER THIS SECOND SET OF DISCUSSIONS, THE CMLA HELD A RECEPTION FOR THE AFGHAN PRESIDENT, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE PRESIDENT MUFTI MAHMOOD, NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER WALI KHAN, TEHRIK PRESIDENT ASGHAR KHAN, AND MAULANA KAUSER NIAZI (LATE?) OF THE PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY. THE AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT THE POLITICIANS WERE GRUMBLING ABOUT BEING FERRIED ABOUT THE COUNTRY THE FOLLOWING DAY TO ACCOMPANY DAOUD TO LAHORE. THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION EVEN CHARTERED A PLANE TO TAKE MOST OF THE RELUCTANT WANDERS TO LAHORE WHEN THE FESTIVITIES MOVED TO THAT CITY MARCH 7.

5. DAOUD'S LAHORE VISIT PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR MANY MORE WARM WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP ON BOTH SIDES AND FOR DAOUD'S FIRST REAL PUBLIC STATEMENT. THE AFGHAN PRESIDENT TOLD THE ASSEMBLED MULTITUDE AT SHALIMAR GARDENS THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD "ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE PAKISTAN A STRONG, WEALTHY, AND STABLE COUNTRY," NOTING  
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THAT "YOUR STRENGTH IS OUR STRENGTH, YOUR WELFARE IS OUR WELFARE, AND YOUR STABILITY IS OUR STABILITY." DAOUD ALSO SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD DONE ITS PART "WITH ALL THE SINCERITY AT OUR DISPOSAL" TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THE DAY WOULD "COME SOON WHEN BROTHERLY TIES EXISTING AMONGST US WILL TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO A PERMANENT AND ENVIABLE REALITY."

6. IN COMMENTING TO AMBASSADOR ON THE DAOUD VISIT DURING AIRPORT SENDOFF ON 8 MARCH, FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ SAID THAT GOP IS PLEASED THAT DAOUD PRIVATELY REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO SOLIDIFYING THE BORDER BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. HE LEFT THE TIMING INDEFINITE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTING HE HAS ADDITIONAL WORK TO DO AT HOME ON THE MATTER. FONSEC SAID GOP UNDERSTANDS THIS.

7. DESPITE EARLIER HINTS THAT HE WOULD WANT TO MEET ALONE WITH NDP PATHAN LEADER ABDUL WALI KHAN, DAOUD CHOSE TO MEET PAKISTANI POLITICAL LEADERS IN GROUPS; WALI WAS ROPED INTO A GROUP WHICH WAS NWFP-BALUCHISTAN ORIENTED AND THUS INCLUDED THE BALUCHI LEADERS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION HOW THESE POLITICAL TALKS WENT, BUT SHAHNAWAZ SUGGESTS DAOUD BACKED AWAY FROM A DIRECT EFFORT TO ASSESS WALI'S MOOD AND POSITION FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE --  
PURPORTEDLY A PART OF DAOUD'S ORIGINAL CALCULUS ON THE PAKHTUN

QUESTION.

8. ACCORDING TO FONSEC, DAOUD "BLUNTLY AND FORCEFULLY" WARNED GENERAL ZIA ABOUT THE DANGERS OF PERMITTING MILITANT RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO GET CONTROL OF OR OTHERWISE INFLUENCE GOP POLICY. AFGHANISTAN, DAOUD IS QUOTED AS SAYING, HAS TROUBLESOME RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS OF ITS OWN WHO WOULD TAKE COMFORT IN SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN AND WHO COULD CAUSE HIM TROUBLE.

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PACOM FOR POLAD

9. DAOUD'S PRESS CONFERENCE 8 MARCH JUST BEFORE HIS TAKEOFF FROM RAWALPINDI WENT VERY SMOOTHLY. DAOUD HANDLED IT VERY WELL, ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE AND DE-EMPHASIZING THE NEGATIVE, STRESSING HIS SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL COOPERATION AND MINIMIZING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. FINALLY, NO VISIT WOULD BE COMPLETE WERE THERE NOT AN INVITATION TO DO IT AGAIN; DAOUD OBLIGED BY INVITING BOTH GENERAL ZIA AND PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN IN THE FUTURE; NATURALLY, THEY ACCEPTED BUT LEFT THE DATES OPEN.

10. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT; NOR, WBV UNDERSTAND, WILL THERE BE ONE. BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY THOUGHT  
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ABOUT HAVING ONE AND THEN DECIDED NOT TO BOTHER. (THERE MAY BE MORE TO THIS, BUT FOR THE MOMENT THAT IS ALL WE KNOW).

11. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, AN UPBEAT VISIT, CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONTINUING WARMING IN PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS AND TO THE REGIONAL TREND OF BILATERAL IMPROVEMENT. GOING BACK OVER WHAT FONSEC TOLD US ON THE EVE OF THE VISIT (REF. B), IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ALL WENT ABOUT AS WELL AS GOP EXPECTED (IF NOT AS WELL AS SOME IN GOP MIGHT HAVE HOPED). THE BORDER ISSUE WILL TAKE FURTHER TIME TO WORK OUT, AND ALTHOUGH IT COULD AGAIN FLARE UP -- DELIBERATELY OR INADVERTENTLY -- IT COULD JUST AS EASILY REMAIN DORMANT AND UNRESOLVED FOR A FEW MORE YEARS. IT IS NOT RPT NOT NOW A SOURCE OF PAK-AFGHAN FRICTION, HOWEVER, AND GIVEN ITS TORTURED HISTORY, THAT IS A POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014